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FILED

April 12, 2004

**NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR :
REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

LAURIE PETERSON-DEERFIELD, D.O.

Administrative Action

: CONSENT ORDER OF
: VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AND SURGERY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

This matter was opened to the State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information from the Physicians' Health Program of the Medical Society of New Jersey ("PHP") that Laurie Peterson-Deerfield, D.O. ("Respondent") relapsed into the abuse of cocaine and alcohol.

The Board's file in this matter indicates that Respondent was licensed in 2001 contingent upon her execution of a Private Letter Agreement with the PHP. That agreement provided for ongoing monitoring of Respondent's substance-free status and required the PHP to report any positive urine results to the Board. On March 19, 2004, pursuant to the agreement, the PHP reported that a urine sample taken from Respondent on approximately March 12, 2004 was

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positive for cocaine. Thereafter, Respondent admitted a relapse of brief duration and intermittent consumption of alcohol.

In cooperation with the PHP, Respondent entered into an in-patient substance abuse treatment program at Marworth in Waverly, Pennsylvania, on March 22, 2004.

Respondent now seeks leave to voluntarily surrender her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey without prejudice and in accordance with the terms of this Order. The Board finding the within disposition to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare,

IT IS, therefore, on this 12 day of April, 2004,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent, Laurie Peterson-Deerfield, D.O., is hereby granted leave and shall immediately surrender her license to practice medicine and surgery in the State of New Jersey for a minimum period of three (3) months from the date of her entry into treatment,

2. Respondent shall return her original New Jersey license and current biennial registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, upon her receipt of a filed copy of this Order.

3. Respondent shall comply with the attached directives for physicians whose surrender of licensure has been accepted by the Board, which are incorporated herein by reference.

4. Respondent shall return her original CDS registration to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Post Office Box 183, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, upon his receipt of a filed copy of this Order.

5. Respondent shall immediately advise the DEA of this Order.

6. Prior to any restoration of her license, Respondent shall:

a. Appear before the Board, or a committee thereof, to discuss her readiness to re-enter the practice of medicine. At that time, Respondent shall be prepared to propose her plans for future practice in New Jersey;

b. Provide the Board with evidence that she is capable of discharging the functions of a licensee in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that she is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of cocaine, alcohol, or any drug which could affect her practice;

c. Provide the Board with evidence that she is not a habitual user of cocaine, alcohol, drugs or intoxicants in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:9-16(b) and is not engaged in professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e); and

d. Provide the Board with reports from each and every mental health professional including, but not limited to: psychologists, counselors, therapists and psychiatrists who have participated in her care and/or treatment for

the disability in this matter during the period of time from her entry into treatment to Respondent's appearance.

e. Provide the Board with a discharge summary from Marworth and/or any other in-patient treatment programs in which Respondent was a patient during the period of surrender and the results of all urine analyses to which Respondent submitted during the period of surrender.

7. The parties hereby stipulate that entry of this Order is without prejudice to further action by this Board or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct prior to entry into any treatment facility pursuant to this Order.

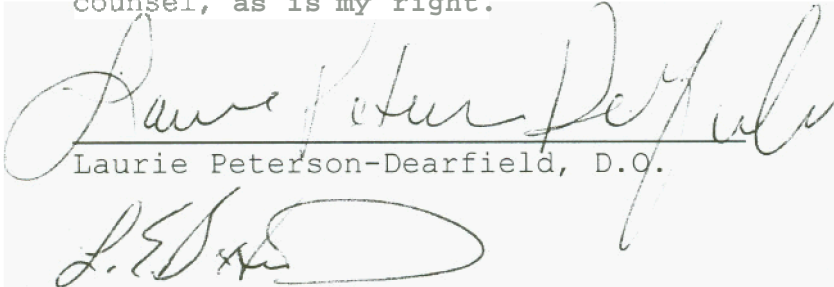
NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: _____



David M. Wallace, M.D.
President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order. I understand that this Order has serious legal consequences and have decided to enter into this agreement with the Board without the advice of legal counsel, as is my right.



Laurie Peterson-Dearfield, D.O.



Louis E. Baxter, Sr., M.D., FASAM
Executive Medical Director
Physicians' Health Program

**DIRECTIVES APPLICABLE TO ANY MEDICAL BOARD LICENSEE
WHO IS DISCIPLINED OR WHOSE SURRENDER OF LICENSURE
HAS BEEN ACCEPTED**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON MAY 10, 2000

All licensees who are the subject of a disciplinary order of the Board are required to provide the information required on the addendum to these directives. The information provided will be maintained separately and **will not be** part of the public document filed with the Board. Failure to provide the information required may result in further disciplinary action for failing to cooperate with the Board, as required by N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1 et seq. Paragraphs 1 through 4 below shall apply when a license is suspended or revoked or permanently surrendered, with or without prejudice. Paragraph 5 applies to licensees who are the subject of an order which, while permitting continued practice, contains a probation or monitoring requirement.

1. Document Return and Agency Notification

The licensee shall promptly forward to the Board office at Post Office Box 183, 140 East Front Street, 2nd floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0183, the original license, current biennial registration and, if applicable, the original CDS registration. In addition, if the licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration, he or she shall promptly advise the DEA of the licensure action. (With respect to suspensions of a finite term, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee may contact the Board office for the return of the documents previously surrendered to the Board. In addition, at the conclusion of the term, the licensee should contact the DEA to advise of the resumption of practice and to ascertain the impact of that change upon his/her DEA registration.)

2. Practice Cessation

The licensee shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of medicine in this State. This prohibition **not only** bars a licensee from rendering professional services, but also from providing an opinion as to professional practice or its application, or representing him/herself as being eligible to practice. (Although the licensee need not affirmatively advise patients or others of the revocation, suspension or surrender, the licensee must truthfully disclose his/her licensure status in response to inquiry.) The disciplined licensee is also prohibited from occupying, sharing or using office space in which another licensee provides health care services. The disciplined licensee may contract for, accept payment from another licensee for or rent at fair market value office premises and/or equipment. In no case may the disciplined licensee authorize, allow or condone the use of his/her provider number by any health care practice or any other licensee or health care provider. (In situations where the licensee has been suspended for less than one year, the licensee may accept payment from another professional who is using his/her office during the period that the licensee is suspended, for the payment of salaries for office staff employed at the time of the Board action.)

A licensee whose license has **been** revoked, **suspended for one (1) year or more** or **permanently** surrendered must remove signs and take **affirmative** action to stop **advertisements** by which his/her eligibility to practice is represented. The licensee must also take **steps** to remove his/her name from professional **listings**, telephone directories, professional stationery, or billings. If the licensee's name is utilized in a group practice **title**, it shall be delated. Prescription pads bearing the licensee's name shall be **destroyed**. A **destruction** report form **obtained** from the **Office** of Drug Control (973-504-6558) must be filed. If no other licensee is providing **services** at the location, all medications must be **removed and returned to the** manufacturer, if possible, destroyed or safeguarded. (In situations where a license has been suspended for **less** than one year, prescription pads and **medications** need not be destroyed but must be **secured in a locked place** for safekeeping.)

3. **Practice Income Prohibitions/Divestiture of Equity Interest in Professional Service Corporations and Limited Liability Companies**

A licensee shall not charge, receive or share in any fee for professional **services** rendered by him/herself or others while barred from **engaging** in the professional practice. The **licensee may be compensated for the** reasonable **value** of services **lawfully** rendered and disbursements incurred **on** a patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the Board action.

A licensee who is a shareholder in a professional service corporation organized to engage in the professional practice, whose license is revoked, surrendered or **suspended** for a term of one (1) year or more shall be deemed to be disqualified from the practice **within** the meaning of the Professional Service Corporation Act. (N.J.S.A. 14A:17-11). A disqualified licensee shall divest him/herself of all financial interest in the professional service corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 14A:17-13(c). A licensee who **is** a member of a limited liability company **organized pursuant to** N.J.S.A. 42:1-44, shall divest him/herself of all financial **interest**. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days following the the entry of the Order tendering the licensee disqualified to participate in the applicable form of ownership. Upon **divestiture**, a licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of **documentation** forwarded to the Secretary of State, Commercial Reporting Division, demonstrating that the interest has **been** terminated. If the licensee **is** the sole shareholder in a professional service corporation, the corporation **must be dissolved within 90 days** of the licensee's disqualification.

4. **Medical Records**

If, as a result of the Board's action, a practice is closed or transferred to another location, the licensee shall ensure that during the three (3) month period following the effective date of the disciplinary order, a message will be delivered to patients calling the former office premises, advising where records may be obtained. The message should inform patients of the names and telephone numbers of the licensee (or his/her attorney) assuming custody of the records. The **same** information shall **also be** disseminated by means of a notice to be published at least once **per month** for three (3) **months in a newspaper** of

general circulation in the geographic vicinity in which the practice was conducted. At the end of the three month period, the licensee shall file with the Board the name and telephone number of the contact person who will have access to medical records of former patients. Any change in that individual or his/her telephone number shall be promptly reported to the Board. When a patient or his/her representative requests a copy of his/her medical record or asks that record be forwarded to another health care provider, the licensee shall promptly provide the record without charge to the patient.

5. Probation/Monitoring Conditions

With respect to any licensee who is the subject of any Order imposing a probation or monitoring requirement or a stay of an active suspension, in whole or in part, which is conditioned upon compliance with a probation or monitoring requirement, the licensee shall fully cooperate with the Board and its designated representatives, including the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs, in ongoing monitoring of the licensee's status and practice. Such monitoring shall be at the expense of the disciplined practitioner.

(a) Monitoring of practice conditions may include, but is not limited to, inspection of the professional premises and equipment, and inspection and copying of patient records (confidentiality of patient identity shall be protected by the Board) to verify compliance with the Board Order and accepted standards of practice.

(b) Monitoring of status conditions for an impaired practitioner may include, but is not limited to, practitioner cooperation in providing releases permitting unrestricted access to records and other information to the extent permitted by law from any treatment facility, other treating practitioner, support group or other individual/facility involved in the education, treatment, monitoring or oversight of the practitioner, or maintained by a rehabilitation program for impaired practitioners. If bodily substance monitoring has been ordered, the practitioner shall fully cooperate by responding to a demand for breath, blood, urine or other sample in a timely manner and providing the designated sample.

NOTICE OF REPORTING PRACTICES OF BOARD
REGARDING DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3(3), all orders of the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners are available for public inspection. Should any inquiry be made concerning the status of a licensee, the inquirer will be informed of the existence of the order and a copy will be provided if requested. All evidentiary hearings, proceedings on motions or other applications which are conducted as public hearings and *the* record, including the transcript and documents marked in evidence, are available for public inspection, upon request.

Pursuant to 45 CFR Subtitle A 60.8, *the* Board is obligated to report to the National Practitioners Data Bank any action relating to a physician which is based on reasons relating to professional competence or professional conduct:

- (1) Which revokes or suspends (of otherwise restricts) a license,
- (2) Which censures, reprimands or places on probation,
- (3) Under which a license is surrendered.

Pursuant to 45 CFR Section 61.7, the Board is obligated to report to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection (HIP) Data Bank, any formal or official actions, such as revocation or suspension of a license (and the length of any such suspension), reprimand, censure or probation or any other loss of license or the right to apply for, or renew, a license of the provider, supplier, or practitioner, whether by operation of law, voluntary surrender, non-renewability, or otherwise, or any other negative action or finding by such Federal or State agency that is publicly available information.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-19.13, if the Board refuses to issue, suspends, revokes or otherwise places conditions on a license or permit, it is obligated to notify each licensed health care facility and health maintenance organization with which a licensee is affiliated and every other board licensee in *this* state with whom he or she is directly associated in private medical practice.

In accordance with an agreement with the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, a list of all disciplinary orders are provided to that organization on a monthly basis.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order will appear on the public agenda for the next monthly Board meeting and is forwarded to those members of *the* public requesting a copy. In addition, the same summary will appear in the minutes of that Board meeting, which are also made available to those requesting a copy.

Within the month following entry of an order, a summary of the order will appear in a Monthly Disciplinary Action Listing which is made available to those members of the public requesting a copy.

On a periodic basis the Board disseminates to its licensees a newsletter which includes a brief description of all of the orders entered by *the* Board.

From time to time, *the* Press Office of the Division of Consumer Affairs may issue releases including the summaries of the content of public orders.

Nothing herein *is* intended in any way to limit the Board, the Division or the Attorney General from disclosing any public document.